

RI Definition of *Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools*

In Rhode Island, “persistently lowest-achieving schools” are defined as those that are among the lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State or that have a high school graduation rate that is less than 60 percent over a number of years.

In an effort to more effectively target resources, *persistently lowest-achieving schools* will be delineated according to need into one of three tiers:

Tier I schools: Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that

- i. Is among the lowest-achieving five percent¹ of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State; or
- ii. Is a high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 200.19(b) that is less than 60 percent over a number of years;

Tier II schools: Any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds that

- i. Is among the lowest-achieving five percent² of secondary schools in the State that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds; or
- ii. Is a high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 200.19(b) that is less than 60 percent over a number of years.

Tier III: Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that

- i. Is not a Tier I school
- ii. Is among the bottom 6–10 percent³ of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

¹ Or the five lowest-achieving Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State, whichever number of schools is greater.

² Or the five lowest-achieving secondary schools in the State that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds, whichever number of schools is greater.

³ Or the next five lowest-achieving schools, whichever is greater.